Guard to combat oil spills are testified by National Institute of Oceanography as non-toxic and meet the International standards. Research and Development work to find Bio-substitutes to chemical dispersant is an on-going activity. Department of Biotechnology and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur have conducted research work for physical and biological removal of oil, which is still at the trial stage.

(d) Does not arise.

Killing of wild animals in National Park, Orissa

7652. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing depletion of fauna and flora in the Similipal Forest and National Park in Orissa;

(b) whether that National Park has become the hunting ground of poachers;

(c) whether elephants, tigers and deers are killed in that forest freely and unabated; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check the killing of wild life and also the preservation of fauna and flora in the Similipal forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The state Government have reported some incidences of poaching of elephants in Similipal Tiger Reserve in the past few months.

(d) The Field Director has been advised to strengthen his intelligence network and intensify patrolling to check poaching and other illegal activities.

Water and Air Pollution in Delhi

7653. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing water and air pollution in Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem in the capital; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. Water and air pollution in Delhi, shows an increase in certain areas in terms of some parameters.

From the year 1992 to 1993 the level of water pollution in the river Yamuna at upstream of Delhi (Palla) shows no significant increase, whereas downstream of Delhi (Okhla) indicates significant increase in the level of pollution in terms of pollutants like BOD, and faecal coliforms. Waste generation due to rise in population together with industrial effluents are the major cause of increase in water pollution.

With regard to air pollution, the annual mean ambient air quality data indicate the following;

(i) From 1992 to 1993, the percentage of increase in No_x level ranges between 1.99 to 30.4 in five out of six locations, where air quality monitoring is done in Delhi.

(ii) From 1992 to 1993 SPM concentration has increased within a range of 1.14% to 6.02% in three out of six locations.

(iii) From 1992 to 1993 SO_2 concentration has increased within a range of 6.63% to 36.76% in three out of six locations.

The increase in vehicular variety population especially of the transient and the consequent slow movement of

vehicles due also to poor road conditions are the main causes of the increase in air pollution in Delhi.

(b) and (c) Steps taken to prevent and control pollution in Delhi and the details thereof include;

(i) Regulation of wastewater generation, treatment and disposal under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act; 1974;

(ii) Launching of the Yamuna Action Plan for restoration of river water quality of Yamuna;

(iii) Standards for control of vehicular emission laid down for enforcement through State Transport Authorities;

(iv) Implementation of Standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage and reduction of Tetra-ethyl lead in petrol to 0.15 gm/ litre in metropolitan cities including Delhi;

(v) Enforcement of industrial gaseous emission Standards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; and

(vi) Formulation of Mass emission standards for vehicles (both for petrol and diesel driven) to be met by vehicle manufacturers in a phased manner from 01.01.1995 and 01.01.2000.

In addition to these ongoing efforts, a high power committee has been recently constituted to identify possible measures which can reduce pollution in Delhi.

Damaging Effects of the use of High Ash content Coal

7654. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made any assessment about the damaging effect being caused due to the use of high ash content coal in the power sector in the country;

(b) whether he is also aware of some research studies about this aspect; and

(c) if so, what efforts his Ministry is making to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The ash content in coal not only reduces calorific value of coal but also causes air & water pollution. The toxic heavy metals present in the ash finds their way into the environment. Several research organisations, are engaged in studying impact of fly ash emissions on flora & fauna and its effects on disposal on land.

(c) State Governments have been requested to fomulate Perspective Action Plan for fly ash utilisation in order to enhance its utilisation from 3% to 50% by the turn of the century and for which the following incentives have been provided—

(i) Excise Duty exemption for bricks and all other building products using 25% or more fly ash as raw material.

(ii) Custom Duty exemption on 'Import of Critical Machinery and Equipment'.

(iii) Free availability of fly ash to the enterpreneurs.